

AMONG FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON-MADISON REGIONAL LIBRARY SUMMER 2022

Dear Friends of JMRL,

After a pandemic-related hiatus, we are pleased to again offer an update on our efforts to support the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library. Going forward we hope we hope to send you “Among Friends” twice a year, summer and winter.

Book Sales:

We are happy to report that the **Spring Book Sale** was one of the most successful sales ever, taking in over \$127,000! The **Fall Book Sale** is scheduled for October 15-23, and it will again be held at the site of the old Northside Library at Albemarle Square Shopping Center. The Pre-Sale for Members will be held on Friday, October 14, and you can sign up to become a member at the Pre-Sale. Also, we will be raising the spending limits at this event to \$75 for individuals, \$150 for families of two or more adults. (In Preparation for the Fall Sale, no book donations will be accepted after September 23.)

Volunteers:

Throughout the year some forty **volunteers** and a small staff employed by the Friends sort, price and store the donations for these sales. Those simple-sounding functions have, over the years, grown into a mammoth task. Many more volunteers are employed during the Spring and Fall sales as Checkers, Cashiers, and Stockers. One such volunteer is **Joe Taylor**. Joe moved to Charlottesville in 1983, and he retired in 2013 from his social worker position in Neurosurgery Department at the University of Virginia Medical Center. Joe began volunteering with the Friends in 2016, and you can find him twice a week at Gordon Avenue sorting books and pricing the volumes in both the “Politics” and “Western” sections. Joe also works at the Book Sales, tallying and boxing bulk purchasers from book dealers. Like most Friends’ volunteers, Joe enjoys reading. He compares his volunteer experience to working in a book store, and he always sees books that he is interested in reading. Joe likes interacting with the other volunteers, and he also appreciates the quiet time perusing the donations.

Are you interested in volunteering? If so, please visit <https://jmrlfriends.org/volunteering>.

Books Behind Bars:

Did you know that the Friends manage **Books Behind Bars**? This initiative is funded by annual contributions from Red Light Management and an anonymous donor. Volunteers from the Friends read letters from inmates and sort and ship donated books to the incarcerated population of Virginia. Financial donations to BBB can be made through the Friends’ website. Be sure to

put *Books Behind Bars* in the *Designation* box, so we know what your donation is intended to support.

Reading Challenges:

Sponsored by the Friends, JMRL had 892 people attend **summer reading** kickoffs regionwide last month. According to the July JMRL Newsletter, this is how the program is going:

- 2,475 people participating
- 162 people signed up at a JMRL kickoff party (almost 7% of all participants)
- More 7-year-olds are participating than any other age child
- 401,612 minutes read
- 1,316 prizes redeemed (toys/books)

Want to join in the fun? It's not too late! The Summer Reading Challenge continues through August 31. Visit your library branch to get started or check out the [JMRL Challenges](#) page to learn more.

Also, in addition to the annual Summer Reading Challenge, JMRL offers reading challenges throughout the year on our Beanstack website and mobile app. Register for a Beanstack account using the Beanstack Tracker App or our Beanstack website. You can log reading ANYTIME through our Beanstack app or website, but only reading logged on dates during an active challenge will count towards that challenge.

Program Support:

Check this out: for the fiscal year, July 2021 through June 2022, **the Friends sponsored 1371 library programs, attended by 32,877 individuals!**

2022 JMRL/NAACP Scholarship

The Friends of the Library have supported a partnership scholarship between JMRL and the Albemarle Charlottesville NAACP for over a decade. Funded by the Art and Jane Hess Fund of the Friends of the Library Endowment, this scholarship also provides a paid internship at a JMRL branch. The goal of the program is to increase awareness of library work for qualified local students with an aim toward attracting a diverse array of young graduates to the profession in the future.

The 2022 JMRL/NAACP Scholarship winner is Nhandi Hoge. Nhandi has been based out of the Gordon Avenue Branch this summer, where her artistic skills have contributed to library programming and displays. Nhandi has also gotten a chance to travel throughout JMRL, working at the Crozet Library and the JMRL Bookmobile. Nhandi will be with JMRL throughout the month of August, so say hi and tell her you are a Friend if you see her at Gordon Avenue!"

Friends of JMRL Directors, Officers, and Staff: 2022 – 2023:

The following is a list of the Friends' **Officers/Board Members** as approved at the June 2022 annual meeting:

Marc Boston: Director – second term ends 2024
Stephanie Commander: Director – third term ends 2024
Wendy Craig: Recording Secretary – second term ends 2023
Nancy Damon: Corresponding Secretary – fourth term ends 2023
Pat Dogil: Director – third term ends 2024
Proal Heartwell: President – second term ends 2023
Ted Magilley: Director – fourth term ends 2024
Grier McCain: Director – third term ends 2024
Peter McIntosh: Treasurer – no term limit
Ashely Schneider: Director – first term ends in 2023
Bill Schrader: Vice President – second term ends 2023
Martha Topel: Director – first term ends in 2024
Deborah Willenborg: Director – second term ends 2023

Staff:

Peter Manno: Book Sale Director
Austin Connor: Assistant Book Sale Manager

Reminders:

While much of our financial support for JMRL comes from the annual Book Sales, your membership dues and donations are also important. Yearly dues are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. You can **renew your membership** online at <https://jmrlfriends.org/join>, or by mail to:

Friends of JMRL
500 Gordon Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Finally, we are trying to collect **email addresses** from all our members so we may do a better job staying in touch with you. Please consider sending your email to us at info@jmrlfriends.org.

Thanks for your support!

The Friends of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library